

LICENSING ALERT

Richard H. Lee
Deputy Secretary
for Quality Assurance

December 1999

Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure
Licensing Alert #5-99

STAFFING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CLINICAL SUPERVISORS AND COUNSELORS HIRED PRIOR TO MARCH 4, 1996

On March 6, 2000, persons employed as clinical supervisors and counselors must be in full compliance with 28 PA Code §704.4(e), compliance with staff qualifications relating to employees hired prior to March 4, 1996. “Persons employed as clinical supervisors and counselors who were hired or promoted prior to March 4, 1996, who do not meet the appropriate staff qualifications shall show evidence that they are working toward full compliance. They shall be in full compliance with this chapter by March 6, 2000. Upon completion of course work, transcripts and other forms of documentation shall be placed in the individual’s personnel file. A licensing representative will check progress at the time of the project site visit.” Clinical supervisors and counselors hired by a Drug and Alcohol treatment facility prior to March 4, 1996 must meet at least one of the qualifications specified in §704.6(b) and §704.7(b), respectively, or the facility can no longer retain that individual in that position.

Demoting such an individual to the position of “counselor assistant” is not permissible. 28 PA Code §701.1 General definitions, defines the position of counselor assistant as “an entry level position for an individual without counseling experience who provides treatment services under the direct supervision of a trained counselor or clinical supervisor.” Therefore, by definition, staff persons hired prior to March 4, 1996 in the position of “clinical supervisor” or “counselor” do not qualify for the position of “counselor assistant”.

For further information regarding this alert, please contact Arvida Wanner or Carol Bashore, Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensure, at (717) 783-8675.